

Thomas Wallcut Engraver of the Title Page 1790
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A BRIEF and TRUE

NARRATIVE

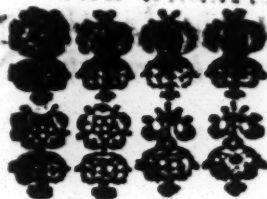
Of some Remarkable Passages Relating to fundry Persons
Afflicted by

Witchcraft,

AT
SALEM VILLAGE:

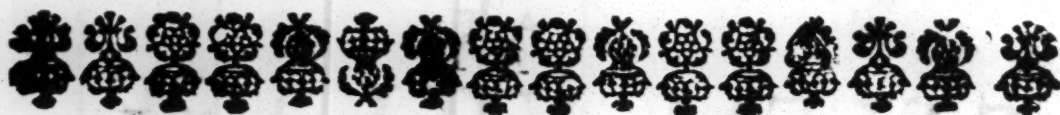
Which happened from the Nineteenth of *March*, to the
Fifth of *April*, 1692.

Collected by *Deodat Lawson.*



Boston, Printed for Benjamin Harris and are to be Sold at his
Shop, over-again^t the Old-Meeting-House. 1692.

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The Bookseller to the Reader.

THe Ensuing Narrative being, a Collection of some Remarkables, in an Affair now upon the Stage, made by a Credible Eye-witness, is now offered unto the Reader, only as a Taste, of more that may follow in Gods Time. If the Prayers of Good People may obtain this Favour of God, That the Mysterious Assaults from Hell now made upon so many of our Friends may be thoroughly Detected and Defeated, we suppose the Curious will be Entertained with as rare an History as perhaps an Age has had; whereof this Narrative is but a Fore-runner.

Benjamin Harris.

ON the Nineteenth day of *March* last I went to *Salem Village*, and lodged at *Nathaniel Ingersols* near to the Minister *Mr. P.*s. house, and presently after, I came into my Lodging *Capt. Walcutts* Daughter *Mary* came to *Lievt. Ingersols* and spake to me, but, suddenly after as she stood by the door, was bitten, so that she cried out of her Wrist, and looking on it with a Candle, we saw apparently the marks of *Teeth* both upper and lower set, on each side of her wrist.

In the beginning of the Evening, I went to give *Mr. P.* a visit. When I was there, his Kins-woman, *Abigail Williams*, (about 12 years of age,) had a grievous fit; she was at first lured with Violence to and fro in the room; (though *Mrs. Ingersol*, endeavoured to hold her,) sometimes making as if she would fly, stretching up her arms as high as she could, and crying *Whish, Whish, Whish!* several times; Presently after she said there was *Goodw N.* and said, *Do you not see her? Why there she stands!* And she said *Goodw N.* offered her *THE BOOK*, but she was resolved she would not take it, saying Often, *I want, I want, I want, take it, I do not know what Book it is: I am sure it is none of Gods Book, it is the Devils Book, for ought I know.* After that, she run to the Fire, and begun to throw Fire Brands, about the house; and run against the Back, as if she would run up Chimney, and, as they said, she had attempted to go into the Fire in other Fits.

On *Lords Day*, the Twentieth of *March*, there were sundry of the afflicted Persons at Meeting, as, *Mrs. Pope*, and *Goodwife Bibber*, *Abigail Williams*, *Mary Walcut*, *Mary Lewes*, and *Docter Griggs*s Maid. There was also at Meeting, *Goodwife C.* (who was afterward Examined on suspicion of being a *Witch*:) They had several Sore Fits, in the time of Publick Worship, which did something interrupt me in my First Prayer; being so unusual. After *Psalm* was Sung, *Abigail Williams* said to me, *Now stand up, and Name your Text!* And after it was read, she said, *It is a long Text.* In the beginning of Sermon, *Mrs. Pope*, a Woman afflicted said to me, *Now there is enough of that.* And in the Afternoon, *Abigail Williams*, upon my referring to my *Doctrine* said to me, *I know no Doctrine you had, If you did name one, I have forgot it.*

In Sermon time when *Goodw C.* was present in the Meetinghouse *Ab. W.* called out, *Look where Goodw. C sits on the Beam suckling her*
Tell us

Yellow bird betwixt her fingers : Anne Putman another Girl afflicted said there was a *Yellow-bird* sat on my hat as it hung on the Pin in the Parit^{ment} but those that were by, restrained her from speaking loud about it.

On Monday the 21st. of March, The Magistrates of Salem appointed to come to Examination of Goodw. C. And about twelve of the Clock, they went into the Meeting-House, which was Thronged with Spectators : Mr. Noyes began with a very pertinent and pathetic Prayer ; and Goodwife C. being called to answer to what was Alledged against her, she desired to go to Prayer, which was much wondred at, in the presence of so many hundred people : The Magistrates told her, they would not admit her, they came not there to hear her Pray, but to Examine her, in what was Alledged against her. The Worshipful Mr. Hathorne, asked her, *Why she Afflicted those Children* ? she said, she did not Afflict them. He asked her, who did then ? she said, *I do not know ; How should I know* ? The Number of the Afflicted Persons were about that time Ten, viz. Four Married Women, Mrs Pope, Mrs. Putman, Goodw. Bibber, and an Ancient Woman, named Goodall, three Maids, Mary Walcut, Mercy Lewes, at Thomas Putman's, and a Maid at Dr. Goggin's, there were three Girls from 9 to 12 Years of Age, each of them, or thereabouts, viz. Elizabeth Parris, Abigail Williams and Ann Putman ; these were most of them at G. C's Examination, and did vehemently accuse her in the Assembly of afflicting them, by Biting, Pinching, Strangling, &c. And that they did in their Fit, see her Likeness coming to them, and bringing a Book to them, she said, she had no Book ; they affirmed, she had a *Yellow-Bird*, that used to suck betwixt her Fingers, and being asked about it, if she had any *Familiar Spirit*, that attended her, she said, *She had no Familiarity with any such thing*. She was a *Gospel Woman* : which Title she called her self by ; and the Afflicted Persons told her, *ah ! She was, a Gospel Witch*. Ann Putman did there affirm, that one day when Lieutenant Fuller was at Prayer at her Father's House, she saw the shape of Goodw. C. and she thought Goodw. N. Praying at the same time to the Devil, she was not sure it was Goodw. N. she thought it was ; but very sure she saw the shape of G. C. The said C. said, they were poor, distracted Children, and no heed to be given to what they said. Mr. Hathorne and Mr. Noyes replied it was the judgment of all that were present, they were

Bewitched, and only she the Accused Person said, they were *Distracted*. It was observed several times, that if she did but bite her Under lip in time of Examination the persons afflicted were bitten on their armes and wrists and produced the *Marks* before the Magistrates, Ministers and others. And being watched for that, if she did but *Pinch* her Fingers, or *Graspe* one Hand, hard in another, they were Pinched and produced the *Marks* before the Magistrates, and Spectators. After that, it was observed, that if she did but lean her *Breast*, against the Seat, in the Meeting House, (being the *Barr* at which she stood,) they were afflicted. Particularly Mrs. *Rope* complained of grievous torment in her *Bowels* as if they were torn out. She vehemently accused said C. as the instrument, and first threw her Muff at her ; but that flying not home, she got off her *Shoe*, and hit Goodwife C. on the head with it. After these postures were watched, if said C. did but stir her feet, they were afflicted in their *Feet*, and stamped fearfully. The afflicted persons asked her why she did not go to the company of Witches which were before the Meeting house mustering ? Did she not hear the *Drum* beat. They accused her of having Familiarity with the *Devil*, in the time of Examination, in the shape of a Black man whispering in her ear ; they affirmed, that her *Yellow-Bird*, sucked betwixt her Fingers in the Assembly ; and order being given to see if there were any sign, the Girl that saw it, said, it was too late now ; she had removed a *Pin*, and put it on her head ; which was found there sticking upright.

They told her, she had Covenanted with the *Devil* for ten years, six of them were gone, and four more to come. She was required by the Magistrates to answer that Question in the Catechism, *How many persons, be there in the God-Head ?* she answered it but oddly, yet was there no great thing to be gathered from it ; she denied all that was charged upon her, and said, *They could not prove a Witch ;* she was that Afternoon Committed to *Salem-Prison* ; and after she was in Custody, she did not so appear to them, and afflict them as before.

On Wednesday the 23 of *March*, I went to *Thomas Putmans*, on purpose to see his Wife : I found her lying on the Bed, having had a sore fit a little before she spake to me, and said, she was glad to see me ; her Husband and she, both desired me to pray with her, while she was sensible ; which I did, though the Apparition said, *I should not go to Prayer*. At the first beginning she attended ; but after a little time, was taken with a fit : yet continued silent, and seemed to be *Asleep* : when Prayer was done, her Husband going to her, found her in a *Fit* ; he took her off the Bed, to set her on his Knees ; but at first she was so stiff, she could not be bended ; but she afterwards set

down; but quickly began to strive violently with her Arms and Leggs; she then began to Complain of, and as it were to Converse personally with, Goodw. N. saying, Goodw. N. Be gone! Be gone! Be gone! are you not ashamed, a Woman of your Profession, to afflict a poor Creature so? what hurt did I ever do you in my life! you have but two ye ars to live, and then the Devil will torment your Soul, for this your Name is blotted out of Gods Book, and it shall never be put in Gods Book again, be gone for shame, are you not afraid of that which is coming upon you? I Know, I know, what will make you afraid; the wrath of an Angry God, I am sure that will make you afraid; be gone, do not torment me, I know what you would have (we judged she meant, her Soul) but it is out of your reach; it is Clothed with the white Robes of Christs Righteousness. After this, she seemed to dispute with the Apparition about a particular Text of Scripture. The Apparition seemed to deny it; (the Womans eyes being fast closed all this time) she said, She was sure there was such a Text; and she would tell it; and then the Shape would be gone, for said she, I am sure you cannot stand before that Text! then she was sorely Afflicted; her mouth drawn on one side, and her body strained for about a minute, and then said, I will tell, I will tell; it is, it is, it is! three or four times, and then was afflicted to hinder her from telling, at last she broke forth and said, It is the third Chapter of the Revelations. I did something scruple the reading it, and did let my scruple appear, lest Satan should make any, Superstitious lie to improve the Word of the Eternal God. However, tho' not versed in these things, I judged I might do it this once for an Experiment. I began to read, and before I had near read through the first verse, she opened her eyes, and was well; this fit continued near half an hour. Her Husband and the Spectators told me, she had often been so relieved by reading Texts that she named, something pertinent to her Case; as Isa 40. 1. Isa 49. 1. Isa. 50. 1. and several others.

On Thursday the Twenty fourth of march, (being in course the Lecture Day, at the Village,) Goodwife N. was brought before the Magistrates Mr Hatborne and Mr Corwin, about Ten of Clock, in the Fore Noon, to be Examined in the Meeting House, the Reverend Mr. Hale, begun with Prayer, and the Warrant being read, she was required to give answer, Why she afflicted those persons? she pleaded her owne innocency with earnestness. Thomas Putman's Wife, Abigail Williams and Thomas Putmans daughter accused her that she appeared to them, and afflicted them in their fits: but some of the other said, that they had seen her, but knew not that ever she had hurt them; amongst which was Mary Walcut, who was presently after she had declared bitten, and cryed out of her in the meeting-house; producing the Marks of teeth on her wrist. It was so disposed

posed, that I had not leisure to attend the whole time of Examination but both Magistrates, and Ministers, told me, that the things alledged, by the afflicted, and defences made by her, were much after the same manner, as the former was. And her motions, did produce like effects as to, *Biteing, Pinching, Bruising, Tormenting*, at their *Breasts*, by her *Leaning*, and when, bended Back, were as if their Backs was broken. The afflicted persons said, the *Black Man*, whispered to her in the Assembly, and therefore she could not hear what the Magistrates said unto her. They said also that she did then ride by the Meeting-house, behind the *Black Man*. *Thomas Putman's* wife, had a grievous Fit, in the time of Examination, to the very great Impairing of her strength, and wasting of her spirits, insomuch as she could hardly, move hand, or foot, when she was carryed out. Others also were there grievously afflicted, so that there was once such an hideous shriech and noise, (which I heard as I walked, at a little distance from the Meeting house,) as did amaze me, and some that were within, told me the whole assembly was struck with consternation, and they were afraid, that those that sat next to them, were under the influence of *Witchcraft*. This woman also was that day committed to *Salem Prison*. The Magistrates and Ministers also did informe me, that they apprehended a child of *Sarah G.* and Examined it, being between 4. and 5. years of Age. And as to matter of Fact, they did Unanimously affirm, that when this Child, did but cast his eye upon the afflicted persons, they were tormented, and they held her *Hood*, and yet so many as her eye could fix upon were afflicted. Which they did several times make careful observation of: the afflicted complained; they had often been *Bitten* by this child, and produced the marks of a *small set of teeth*, accordingly, this was also committed to *Salem Prison*, the child looked *hail*, and well as other Children. I saw it at *Lievt. Jagersols*. After the commitment of *Goodw. N. Tho: Putmans* wife was much better, and had no violent fits at all from that 24th of *March*, to the 5th of *April*. Some others also said they had not seen her so frequently appear to them, to hurt them.

On the 25th of *March*, (as *Capt. Stephen Sewal*, of *Salem*, did afterwarde inform me) *Eliza. Paris*, had sore Fits, at his house, which much troubled himself, and his wife, so as he told me they were almost discouraged. She related, that the great *Black Man* came to her, and told her, if she would be ruled by him, she should have, whatsoever she desired, and go to a *Golden City*. She relating this to *Mrs. Sewall*, she told the child, is was the *Divil*, and he was a *Liar from the Beginning*, and bid her tell him so, if he came again: which she did accordingly, at the next coming to her, in her fits.

On the 26th of *March*, *Mr. Hathorne*, *Mr. Corwin*, and *Mr. Higison*, were at the *Prison-Keepers House*, to Examine the Child, and it told them there, it had a little *Suck*, that used to Suck on the lowest Joyn of it

Fore-Finger ; and when they inquired where, pointing to other places, it told them, not there, but *there*, pointing on the Lowest point of the Fore-Finger ; where they Observed, a deep Red Spot, about the Bigness of a Flea-bite, they asked who gave it that Snake ? whether the great Black man, it said no, its Mother gave it.

The 31 of March there was a Publick Fast kept at Salem on account of these Afflicted Persons. And Abigail Williams said, that the Witches had a Sacrament that day at an house in the Village, and that they had Red Bread and Red Drink. The first of April, Mercy Lewis, Thomas Putman's Maid, in her fitt, said, they did eat Red Bread like Mans Flesh, and would have had her eat some : but she would not ; but turned away her head, and Spit at them, and said, *I will not Eat, I will not Drink, it is Blood &c.* She said, *That is not the Bread of Life, that is not the Water of Life ; Christ gives the Bread of Life, I will have none of it !* This first of April also Marcy Lewis aforesaid saw in her fitt a White man and was with him in a Glorious Place, which had no Candles nor Sun, yet was full of Light and Brightness ; where was a great Multitude in White glittering Robes, and they Sung the Song in the fifth of Revelation the Ninth verse, and the 110 Psalm, and the 149 Psalm ; and said with her self, *How long shall I stay here ! let me be along with you :* She was loth to leave this place, and grieved that she could tarry no longer. This Whiteman hath appeared several times to some of them, and given them notice how long it should be before they had another Fit, which was sometimes a day, or day and half, or more or less : it hath fallen out accordingly.

The third of April, the Lords-Day, being Sacrament-day, at the Village, Goodw. C. upon Mr. Parris's naming his Text, John 6, 70. *One of them is a Devil*, the said Goodw. C. went immediately out of the Meeting-House, and flung the door after her violently, to the amazement of the Congregation : She was afterward seen by some in their Fits, who said, *O Goodw. C. I did not think to see you here !* (and being at their Red bread and drink) said to her, *Is this a time to receive the Sacrament, you ran-away on the Lords-Day, & scorned to receive it in the Meeting-House, and, Is this a time to receive it ? I wonder at you !* This is the summe of what I either saw my self, or did receive Information from persons of undoubted Reputation and Credit.

Remarks of things more than ordinary about the Afflicted Persons.

1. They are in their Fits tempted to be Witches, are shewed the List of the Names of others, and are tortured, because they will not yield to Subscribe, or meddle with, or touch the BOOK, and are promised to have present Relief if they would do it.

2. They did in the Assembly mutually Cure each other, even with a Touch of their Hand, when Strangled, and otherwise Tortured ; & would endeavour to get to their Afflicted, to Relieve them.

3 They

3. They did also foretel when anothers Fit was a-coming, and would say, *Look to her! she will have a Fit presently*, which fell out accordingly, as many can bear witness, that heard and saw it.

4. That at the same time, when the *Accused Person* was present, the *Afflicted Person* saw her Likeness in other places of the Meeting-House, sucking her *Familiar*, sometimes in one place and posture, and sometimes in another.

5. That their Motions in their Fits are *Preternatural*, both as to the manner, which is so strange as a well person could not Screw their Body into; & as to the violence also it is preternatural being much beyond the Ordinary force of the same person when they are in their right mind.

6 The eyes of some of them in their fits are exceeding fast closed, and if you ask a question they can give no answer, and I do believe they cannot hear at that time, yet do they plainly converse with the Appearances, as if they did discourse with real persons.

7 They are utterly pressed against any persons *Praying*, with them, and told by the appearances, they shall not go to *Prayer*, so *The Putmans wife* was told, *I should not Pray*; but she said, *I should*; and after I had done, reasoned with the *Appearance*, *Did not I say he should go to Prayer?*

8 The *lamented Mary* being a little better at ease, the *Afflicted Persons* said, *she had signed the book*; and that was the reason she was better. Told me by *Edward Putman*.

Remarks concerning the *Accused*

1 For introduction to the discovery of those that afflicted them, It is reported *Mr. Parris's Indian Man*, and *Woman*, made a Cake of *Rye Meal*, and the *Childrens water*, baked it in the *Ashes*, and gave it to a *Dogge*, since which they have discovered, and seen particular persons hurting of them.

2 In Time of Examination, they seemed little affected, though all the Spectators were much grieved to see it.

3. *Natural Actions* in them produced *Preternatural actions* in the *Afflicted*, so that they are their own *Image* without any *Poppits* of Wax or otherwise.

4. That they are accused to have a Company about 23 or 24 and they did *Muster in Armes*, as it seemed to the Afflicted Persons.

5. Since they were confined, the Persons have not been so much Afflicted with their appearing to them, *Heeing* or *Phantizing* of them &c.

6. They are reported by the Afflicted Persons to keep dayes of *Fast* and dayes of *Thanksgiving*, and *Sacraments*; Satan endeavour to Transforme himself to an *Angel of Light*, and to make his Kingdom and Administrations to resemble those of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7. Satan Rages Principally amongst the Visible Subjects of Christ's Kingdom and makes use (at least in appearance) of some of them to Afflict others; that *Christ's Kingdom may be divided against it self*, and so be weakened.

8. Several things used in *England* at Tryal of Witches, to the Number of 24 or 15 which are wont to pass instead of, or in Concurrence with *Witnesses*, at least 6 or 7 of them are found in these accused: see *Keble's Statutes*.

9. Some of the most solid Afflicted Persons do affirme the same things concerning seeing the accused as of their Fins as well as in them.

10. The Witches had a *Fest* and told one of the Afflicted Girls, she must not *Eat*, because it was *Fest Day*, she said, she would: they told her they would *Choke* her then; which when she did eat, was endeavoured.

FINIS

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